



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
372 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431  
Website: <http://sbc.lacounty.gov>

FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montaña

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mrs. Anne S. Hill  
Mr. Carl E. Moore

### **MINUTES OF THE** **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING OF OCTOBER 20, 2010**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

#### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed with a moment of silence and a self introduction.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### Present

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña  
Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio  
Rita Hall  
Barbara Bigby  
Carl Moore

##### Excused Absence

John Hammargren  
Ann S. Hill

##### Guests

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department  
William Kiryan, Internal Services Department  
Jenny Ruiz, Department of Mental Health  
Elizabeth A. Howard, Department of Children and Family Services  
Jason Stepinski, Auditor Controller's Office  
Margaret Ruiz, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Staff

Lee Millen  
Andrew Sevrin

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**Department of Children and Family Services**

Elizabeth Howard, DCFS, reported that the Los Angeles Times has requested a lot of documents under the Public Records Act; data will have to be redacted. No homes have been placed on hold/DNU status. Ms. Howard asked to defer her stat update temporarily until she can receive the data electronically from her office.

**Auditor Controller's Office**

Jason Stepinski, A/C, reported he is supervising the Ombudsman team, and is setting goals for site visits which include visiting all homes next year.

**Mental Health Department**

Ms. Jenny Ruiz, DMH, advised that she is representing Paul McIver, Mental Health Department. AB3632 was suspended on October 9, 2010 by the Governor and future funding will be reduced. Consequently, mental health services provided to seriously disturbed youth will be impacted. However, the department is attempting to continue care for current enrollees; and 62 staff positions are to be reevaluated.

**Sheriff's Department**

Commander Margaret Ruiz, LASD, reported on Inmate Assaults on Staff data (copy on file). There will be an open house/dedication on November 6, 2010 for the new Lynwood station. Department staff are committed to work within the budget. Commissioners' inspection yesterday to LCMC and identified concerns are noted; however, the department is a guest per se at the hospital facility. Also, the gate is to be installed in about six (6) weeks, the Captain has ordered a shed to store the turnout gear and protect it from the weather/loss, and the jail ward is a priority and a locker room site has been identified, however, no timeline has been set to date.

In response to Commissioners Hall and Moore, Commander Ruiz noted that all stations have been provided reflective tape with instructions for placement, the courts will be reminded to do the same, and a custody services officer can be invited to the next business meeting to report on staff training provided.

**Internal Services Department**

William Kiryan, ISD, reported that the Youth Career Development Program has five (5) students in clerical training, and one (1) at a power plant, all students take different career

paths (academic/vocational) of their choice, and all program graduates have obtained a job. In response to Commissioners, Mr. Kiryan reported that he will relay concerns to Mr. Henderson for a follow-up report on repairing the washing machine, and correcting the barbed wire issue; Commissioner Hall commended ISD for repairing the gate at Kenyon Juvenile Center.

### **Probation Department**

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department, reported that she met yesterday with a think tank of DCFS Managers representing nationwide offices, and Los Angeles County Probation Department and the Department of Children and Family Services was commended for their collaborative model implemented in the county. This model will be presented and recommended nationwide.

There were 79 awols (4 repeats), 46 awol currently; 12 were sent to juvenile hall, 5 to camp, and 2 were returned home. In September there were 6 group home investigations, with 1 unfounded, 3 ongoing (2 out of state), and 1 unsubstantiated. There were 2 child abuse cases (1 recanted, and 1 inconclusive). The department's website is being developed (reports will be available on-line).

Mr. Varela sends greetings; he is handling DOJ compliance at all Camps; he will probably attend the next business meeting.

Concerns addressed by Commissioners in the disparity in furnishings at group homes will be addressed by the new director Jennifer Owens. The kitchen is to be replaced (there is a significant cost for commercial grade items), the stagnant water issue at Dorothy King Center is considered to be a City of Commerce issue, however, Commerce suggests it is the County's responsibility to address.

In response to Chairperson Montaña, Ms. Campbell-Motton noted that gay kids have been able to blend in and kids in general are more tolerant; Ms. Howard, DCFS, concurred. In response to Commissioner Bigby, Ms. Campbell-Motton advised that any accusations of inappropriate conduct by female probation officers and kids is taken seriously, however, fabrications do occur. In response to Commissioner Hall, Ms. Howard reported that DCFS did visit the indicated group home to address ethnic hair care products provided to kids; she will e-mail report to staff for distribution to Commissioners.

Ms. Campbell-Motton noted that kids do use their allowance to purchase hair care products from the beauty supply stores; however, juvenile hall is under different requirements and does not provide ethnic specific hair care products. She will provide staff details on this issue for distribution to Commissioners. Also, Commander Ruiz agreed to report back on whether the jail commissary provides ethnic specific hair care products.

Chairperson Montaña thanked all for their very informative presentations.

In response to Commissioner Moore, staff was directed to advise Department representatives to report back in two (2) weeks or sooner on issues/concerns identified at each business meeting by e-mailing/faxing staff, and that staff should e-mail all reports received to Commissioners for review. Also, the Commission will request all Department representatives to follow the reporting points (previously distributed) at each business meeting to avoid any incomplete data reporting and to expeditiously address any contradictory data received by the Commission from other sources (newspaper articles, inspections).

### **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 13, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

On motion of Commissioner Bigby, seconded by Vice Chairperson Bacio and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of October 13, 2010 were approved as submitted.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Reviewed Los Angeles Times Newspaper articles:

- *L.A. County Child Abuse Deaths Rising (10/19/2010)*
- *Board Aims to Curb Racial Fights at Juvenile Halls (10/20/2010)*

Reviewed Daily Breeze Newspaper article:

- *Deaths Higher Than Reported (10/19/2010)*

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,008.78.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Lee Millen, Staff, reported letter to Charles W. McCoy, Jr., Presiding Judge, Superior Court, is ready for Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña's signature. The reservation for Sybil Brand Commission's annual Holiday Gathering was made at Taix Restaurant.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS ON GROUP HOMES AND/OR DETENTION FACILITIES INSPECTIONS FROM OCTOBER 14, 2010 TO OCTOBER 19, 2010**

#### **Counseling & Research/Association/Masada Home – 11, #2 - Chairperson Montaña**

The facility was visited on October 18, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Long Beach Court – Chairperson Montaña** The facility was visited on October 14, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Touch a Life Foundation #2 – 43, #3 - Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Bacio** The facility was visited on October 19, 2010, however, the facility was not inspected as no one was home.

**Glendale Courthouse – Commissioner Bigby** The facility was visited on September 14, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** Need to update First Aid Kit.

**Penny Lane – 36, #1 - Commissioners Bigby and Hill** The facility was visited on October 19, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Heritage Group Home – 23, #2 - Commissioner Bacio** The facility was re-visited on October 14, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Areas of Concern:** Need to patch holes throughout the home, front door and bedroom. Commissioner will revisit in 30 days to check status of repairs and garage cleanup.

**Century Station Booking –Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on October 11, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**LCMC Jail Ward –Commissioners Hall and Moore** The facility was visited on October 19, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

#### **NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson Montaña advised that a joint Commission inspection of Camp Holton is scheduled on October 26, 2010.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m. in memory of the mother of LAPD Chief Charles Beck.